

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 574

By Brown

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the five First Lego League teams who participated in the TVA and their Partners in Education LEGO Robotics Tournament.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those fine students who, even at a young age, exemplify creativity and teamwork and serve as a positive example to their peers and elders alike; and

WHEREAS, five such noteworthy groups of students are the First Lego League Teams of Battle Academy for Teaching and Learning, Tommie F. Brown Academy for Classical Studies, Clifton Hills Elementary, Eastlake Elementary, and Calvin Donaldson Elementary, all of whom demonstrated outstanding commitment to academics at the TVA and their Partners in Education LEGO Robotics Tournament held on May 6, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the elementary students on these teams applied science, technology, engineering, and mathematics learning through hands-on experimentation using LEGO Robotics; the five teams spent months building robots, programming them to complete tasks, and completing missions as a team; and

WHEREAS, at the tournament, students showcased their learning to employees of downtown businesses TVA, Aslom Power, URS/Washington Group, and Advatech, which have provided funding and mentorship to the students in order to make this learning opportunity a reality; and

WHEREAS, First LEGO League (FLL) is a global program designed to build enthusiasm within young students for science and technology; geared for students between the ages of nine and fourteen years of age, FLL utilizes theme-based challenges to engage young students in research, problem solving, and engineering; and

WHEREAS, FLL emphasizes values such as contributions of others, friendly sportsmanship, learning, and community involvement, all of which prepare these young people to become well-rounded and productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, the students involved in the FLL challenge this year explored the earth's climate as they completed the challenge titled, "Climate Connections;" students discovered the links between science, people, resources, and communities; learned about past climates; and inferred how they impact our current and future climactic conditions; and

WHEREAS, the students first selected a mission to carry out; a complete mission involved building parts to a robot, mastering the computer program for the robot, testing the accuracy of the program, and solving problems that arise within the mission, all steps being completed before they ever showcased their projects at the tournament; and

WHEREAS, the tournament judges, TVA, Alstom Power, URS/Washington Group, and Advatech, have a vested interest in improving students' understanding of real world applications for science and technology, as these young students are the future workforce for companies such as these; and

WHEREAS, TVA, the host of the event, first approached the schools to get the program in place, and from there they approached the other companies who joined them in the endeavor; and

WHEREAS, not only did these businesses provide financial support of more than \$30,000 to make the LEGO Robotics program successful; volunteers from these businesses also gave of their time and many talents as mentors, collaborating weekly with the teachers to provide real world situations for the students, and providing direct support to the students as they worked through the rigorous challenges of this learning process; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Spencer of TVA explained TVA's involvement in the program, saying, "We see a great need in the future of the children here in the downtown schools, both for TVA and for the general community. I think a lot of these kids could end up working either for TVA or some of the other partners;" and

WHEREAS, the FLL team of Battle Academy for Teaching and Learning, coached by teacher Jamelie Kangles, and mentored by Ipshita Thomas and Gary Olix, won first place at the tournament, making their Principal, Ruth White, exceedingly proud; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Battle Academy Team include David Stoltz, Jhaeden Smith, Elias Basler, Chris Montgomery, Micaiah Ragsdale, N'Seya Cosme, Emily Thomas, Ethan Rosenow, Ezra Nichols, D'Arius Albert, and Tyler Weaver; and

WHEREAS, winning second place at the tournament was the Tommie F. Brown Academy for Classical Studies Team, coached by teachers Jennifer McElwain, Kathy Long, James Bacon, and Aaron Luke, and mentored by Cody House and Warren Parks; the proud Principal of Brown Academy is Leanne Burk; and

WHEREAS, the students of the Brown Academy FLL Team are Jazlyn Norman, Hannah Walker, Max Radu, Krishna Goins, Connor Nelson, Shaylan Bailey, Quasey Vinson, Joshua Ford, Alyssa Thompson, Justin Murphey, Azionique Martin, and Jordan Harvey; and

WHEREAS, bringing home the third place award at the tournament were the students of the Clifton Hills Elementary Team, coached by teachers Theresa Custer, Julie Wann, and Jeremy DeBord, and mentored by Terry Wigley and Chauncey Custer; they were cheered on by their Principal, Krystal Scarbrough; and

WHEREAS, the students of the Clifton Hills Team include Ulysses Strawter, Eddie Pitman, Tyrone McCroskey, Stephani Arellano, Adam Ellisor, McKayla Jackson, Patricia Trotter, Deonta Reed, and Marqueil White; and

WHEREAS, the students of East Lake Elementary came in fourth place, bringing great pride to their coaches, teachers Daniel Moore and Davis Robinson, their mentor, Bill Copeland, and their Principal, Neelie Parker; and

WHEREAS, the members of the East Lake team are Ashley Cheaves, Leslie Tomas, Dejuan Tipton, Hubaldi Perez, Wilmer Hernandez, Robert Murray, Sydell Young, Alexis Ware, Keyonna Tipton, Caleb Berry, Antione Smith, and Derrios Wofford; and

WHEREAS, winning fifth place at the tournament, the students of Calvin Donaldson Elementary were grateful for the enthusiastic support of their coach, teacher Elijah Duncan, their

mentors, Doug Rogers, Teddy Cross, and Beverly Mostelle, and their Principal, Valerie Brown; and

WHEREAS, the proud students of the Calvin Donaldson team include Spencer Adams, Jahmani Thomas, Ajaisa Reed, Jaqualine Hicks, Nautica Lykes, Gaylin Jackson, DayLand Binford, Jerald Higgenbatham, James Campos, and Deondra Gantt; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to pause in its deliberations to honor and congratulate the students, teachers, principals, and businesses that invested their time and energies in making the TVA and their Partners in Education LEGO Robotics Tournament an overwhelming success; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we applaud the students, teachers, principals, businesses, and mentors who worked together to make the TVA and their Partners in Education LEGO Robotics Tournament a reality, commend the students for their dedication and commitment to excellence, and congratulate them on their hard work and many extraordinary accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.